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Marsha Wiley

2743 Flintridge Drive, Myersville, Maryland 21773

February 17, 2005 10:03 AM

The Federal Communications Commission

Subject: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service -- Docket 96-45

Dear The Federal Communications Commission:

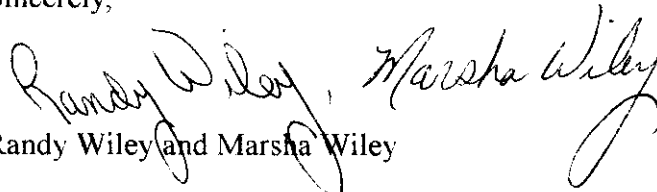
My husband and I are nearing retirement and we are trying to cut costs, yet costs are rising to the point we may not be able to retire. We have a 17 year old son heading to college in a year. Please! We do not want to pay more for our telephone service! We urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. We are concerned that this proposal will make our current service unaffordable. As it is, we frequently check various programs being offered by different wireless providers as well as our land service provider to compare costs to be sure we are getting the lowest possible price. We compare internet provider services regularly, too, to see if we can find a cheaper rate. We are pinching pennies.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

We use our wireless phone for safety, security and convenience and for our teenage son to be able to reach us any time. We don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. We urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,


Randy Wiley and Marsha Wiley

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